IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A substrate bonding apparatus which bonds two substrates together with a sealing agent applied to and spread in ~~the~~ a form of a frame on one of the substrates, comprising:

a first retaining table having a retaining surface which retains one substrate thereon;

a second retaining table opposed to the first retaining table and having a retaining surface which retains the other substrate thereon;

~~a nonviscous~~ an elastic material provided on that part of the retaining surface of at least one of the retaining tables ~~which retains the substrate thereon~~ and being nonviscous at least at a surface which retains the substrate; and

drive means which relatively drives the first and second retaining tables in ~~the vertical~~ a given direction so that the substrates on the respective retaining surfaces of the retaining tables are bonded together with the sealing agent.

2. (Original) A substrate bonding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic material is divided into a plurality of elastic pieces.

3. (Original) A substrate bonding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic material has an A-scale Shore hardness of 40 to 90.

4. (Original) A substrate bonding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic material is divided into a plurality of elastic pieces and has an A-scale Shore hardness of 40 to 90.

5. (Currently amended) A substrate bonding apparatus which bonds two substrates together with a sealing agent applied to and spread in ~~the~~ a form of a frame on one of the substrates, comprising:

a first retaining table having a retaining surface which retains one substrate thereon;

a second retaining table opposed to the first retaining table and having a retaining surface which retains the other substrate thereon;

an elastic material divided into a plurality of elastic pieces provided on that part of the retaining surface of at least one of the retaining tables which retains the substrate thereon; and

drive means which relatively drives the first and second retaining tables in ~~the vertical~~ a given direction so that the substrates on the respective retaining surfaces of the retaining tables are bonded together with the sealing agent.

6. (Currently amended) A substrate bonding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein at least some of the elastic pieces on the retaining table are formed having a first communication hole ~~each~~, ~~the~~ each first communication hole being connected with decompression means such that the substrate can be attracted to

and held on the elastic pieces by means of a sucking force generated in ~~the~~ each first communication hole by the decompression means.

7. (Currently amended) A substrate bonding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the elastic pieces are removably provided on the retaining table, the retaining table having second communication holes which individually open in those portions thereof to which the elastic pieces with ~~the~~ first communication ~~hole~~ holes are attached, ~~the~~ each first communication hole is connected to the decompression means through ~~the~~ a corresponding second communication hole in a manner such that ~~the~~ each elastic ~~pieces~~ piece with ~~the~~ a first communication hole ~~are~~ is attached to the retaining table, and the second communication ~~hole is~~ holes are closed when ~~the~~ each elastic ~~pieces~~ piece without ~~the~~ a first communication hole ~~are~~ is attached to those portions of the retaining table in which the second communication holes open.

8. (Original) A substrate bonding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the elastic material has an A-scale Shore hardness of 40 to 90.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal display panel which has two substrates bonded together with a sealing agent applied to, in the form of a frame, on one of

the substrates, the substrates being bonded by means of a bonding apparatus which comprises:

a first retaining table having a retaining surface which retains one substrate thereon;

a second retaining table opposed to the first retaining table and having a retaining surface which retains the other substrate thereon;

a nonviscous elastic material provided on that part of the retaining surface of at least one of the retaining tables which retains the substrate thereon; and

drive means which relatively drives the first and second retaining tables in the vertical direction so that the substrates on the respective retaining surfaces of the retaining tables are bonded together with the sealing agent.